

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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SECTO

FOR S/PRS, HODDING CARTER; PASS NSC FOR DAVID AARON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESS POOL REPORT

L. FOLLOWING IS THE POOL REPORT OF THE BACKGROUND
BRIEFING BY SECRETARY VANCE ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE FROM
ASWAN TO PARIS JANUARY 4, 1978. BEGIN REPORT.

2. A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL (NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED AS
SECRETARY VANCE) BRIEFED ON BACKGROUND ON THE MEETING
AT ASWAN BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT.

3. "WE HAD A VERY GOOD MEETING. THE TWO OF THEM LIKE
CH OTHER. THEY HAVE A VERY WARM RELATIONSHIP. THERE
WAS NO NEED FOR AN INTERPRETER, THEY CAN TALK DIRECTLY
TO EACH OTHER. IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THEY COVERED
ALL THE ESSENTIAL ITEMS THEY PLANNED TO COVER."

4. THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION WAS THE MIDDLE EAST AND "HOW
BOTH ASSESSED THE SITUATION--WHAT STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO
MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM." A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON THE HORN
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OF AFRICA AND "POSSIBLE STEPS" WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN IN
THE FUTURE TO END THE FIGHTING.

5. THE FIRST DETAILED DISCUSSION WAS ON THE FORTHCOMING
JERUSALEM CONFERENCE (BEGINNING ON JAN. 15) AND THE
VARIOUS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. "THE MOST IMPORTANT
ISSUE...WILL BE THE QUESTION OF PRINCIPLES, WHICH WOULD

SERVE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. (MORE ABOUT THIS LATER). BOTH AGREED THE OBJECTIVE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. AND BOTH SAID THEY HOPED THAT OTHER PARTIES WOULD JOIN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD."

6. FOLLOWING THAT GENERAL RUNDOWN, WE WENT INTO Q&A. THE KEY QUESTION WAS,"IS THERE A CHANGE IN CARTER'S POSITION BASED UPON THE STATEMENT THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED FOLLOWING THE TALKS?" THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS IN THE PAST USED THE PHRASE "A PALESTINIAN VOICE" IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR FUTURE. IN TODAY'S STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT USED THE PHRASE "TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE."

7. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT "THE PRESIDENT AND SADAT ARE VERY CLOSE TOGETHER ON MOST OF THE ISSUES." HE SAID THE GESTURE" OF CARTER'S VISIT WAS IMPORTANT TO SADAT.

8. . NOW ON THE AMERICAN POSITION THAT A GENERAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE REACHED BY THE PARTIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE JERUSALEM CONFERENCE. THE OFFICIAL SAID "WE NEED TO COME TO GRIPS" WITH THE QUESTION OF PRINCIPLES. "WE ARE FOR A GENERAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES." THE OFFICIAL SAID THE U.S.DOESN'T LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOW AT THIS TIME WHERE THE ISRAELIS STAND ON A GENERAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. "WE ARE TRYING TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP."

9. REGARDING THE ISRAELI POSITION, HE SAID THAT BEGIN'S PROPOSAL "IS NOT JUST A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES," BUT IS A MORE COMPLEX, MORE DETAILED STATEMENT. "WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EASIER TO MAKE PROGRESS IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON PRINCIPLES AT THE OUTSET. IF THERE COULD BE AGREEMENT ON A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, THE LIKLI-

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HOOD OF OTHERS JOINING THE TALKS WOULD BE GREATER." AT ANOTHER POINT, HE SAID, "IT IS POSSIBLE, EVEN LIKELY THAT OTHERS WOULD JOIN IF THERE WERE AN AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES (BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL)."

L0. ON THE QUESTION OF WHAT SADAT WAS REFERRING TO WHEN HE SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE AND CARTER HAD AGREED ON "CERTAIN STEPS" TO BE TAKEN, THE OFFICIAL SAID, "BOTH AGREED TO THE NECESSITY OF PUTTING REAL MOMENTUM BEHIND THE DISCUSSIONS STARTING ON JAN. L5.

11. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE SAUDIS WERE DISPLEASED THAT A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAID BEFORE THE RIYADH TALKS THAT THE SAUDIS MAY BE IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING TOWARD THE U.S. APPROACH ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL STOOD BY THAT ASSESSMENT, AFTER THE RIYADH VISIT.

12. THE OFFICIAL SKIRTED A DIRECT ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE APPARENT U.S.-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO PRESS FOR A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WAS A PRODUCT OF CARTER TALKS WITH THE SHAH, KING HUSSEIN OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JORDAN AND KING KHALID AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA. BUT HE AGREED THAT THEIR VIEWS WERE "ONE OF THE INPUTS." HE ALSO DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER HUSSEIN WOULD JOIN IN THE TALKS IF ISRAEL AND EGYPT AGREED TO A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. "WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE EASIER TO MAKE PROGRESS IF WE AGREE ON PRINCIPLES AT THE OUTSET," HE SAID AT ONE POINT AND "IT ALSO PROVIDES THE POSSIBILITY OF BROADENING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE TALKS" AT ANOTHER.

13. COUNTING THE PRIVATE SESSIONS AND WHAT NOT, THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATED THAT CARTER AND SADAT TALKED FOR 45 MINUTES. SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF (10:27 A.M. ASWAN TIME), CARTER CALLED BEGIN, THE OFFICIAL REPORTED. HE COULD NOT GIVE US A REPORT, BUT JODY POWELL CAME BY SHORTLY AND DIDHKO JUST THAT.

14. "THE PRESIDENT CALLED PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ABOUT 15 OR 20 MINUTES AFTER TAKEOFF," POWELL SAID. "THE TWO TALKED ABOUT FIVE MINUTES." POWELL THEN READ FROM A YELLOW LEGAL PAD CARTER'S HANDWRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE CONVERSATION, WHICH FOLLOWS:

15. "I TOLD PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OF MY VISITS WITH KING HUSSEIN, THE SHAH OF IRAN, THE SAUDIS AND WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND PROMISED TO SEND HIM A COMPLETE REPORT ON OUR DISCUSSIONS BY DIPLOMATIC CABLE. I EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL BE PLEASED WITH THE REPORT. HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT WE (THE U.S.) WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE JERUSALEM DISCUSSIONS. I ASSURED HIM THAT SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WILL BE THERE TO PLAY AN APPROPRIATE ROLE AS REQUESTED BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT."

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16. HAMILTON JORDAN, WHO MATERIALIZED IN RIYADH, STOOD BY WHILE THE SENIOR OFFICIAL REPORTED. JORDAN DECLINED IN A FRIENDLY WAY TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS LATER, BUT HE OFFERED THE APPRAISAL THAT "THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD TRIP." JORDAN SAID THAT THE MEETINGS THE PRESIDENT HAS HELD WITH THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WOULD PROVE HELPFUL. "IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE VERY IMPORTANT," HE SAID. END REPORT.

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